



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 09/826,950
Applicant : Galo F. ACOSTA et al.
Filed : April 6, 2001
TC/A.U. : 1743
Examiner : LaToya I. Cross

Docket No. : 2599-103-D2
Customer No. : 6449
Confirmation No. : 8081

COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

MS - IF

Director of the United States Patent
and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Examiner's Statement Of Reasons For Allowance included the following sentence:
"Applicants' invention is directed to a workstation comprising two fixed receiving structures, adjacent one another, one structure having receptacles and the other structure having contamination limiting elements."

In fact, independent claim 26 recites "a fixed first receiving structure adapted to receive and carry a receptacle holding structure for holding a plurality of receptacles" and "a fixed second receiving structure adjacent said first receiving structure and adapted to receive and carry a contamination limiting element holding structure for removably holding a plurality of contamination limiting elements." (*emphasis added*) That is, according to the claim, the first and second receiving structures are merely adapted to receive and carry structures for holding receptacles and contamination limiting elements, respectively. The Examiner's statement incorrectly indicates that the first and second receiving structures include receptacles and contamination limiting elements.

Respectfully submitted,

By

Richard Wydeven, Esq.
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,881
ROTHWELL, FIGG, ERNST & MANBECK, p.c.
Suite 800, 1425 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202)783-6040